

Glossary of Terms and Names

NOTE: This glossary has been made brief so that readers may have an easy understanding of the Qur'aanic verses. Refer to the Ulema for details of the various terms.

A

A.H.: 'After Hijrah', When preceded by a number, this abbreviation denotes a specific year of the Islaamic calendar. For example, 5 A.H. means five years after the Hijrah took place. **See Hijrah.**

Aad: A powerful nation of ancient times to whom the Prophet Hood (Alayhis Salaam) was sent to preach. They were famous for their great strength which no other nation possessed.

Aadam (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Adam. He was the first man and first Prophet of Allaah, commonly referred to as the father of mankind.

Aa'isha (RA): The wife of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the daughter of Abu Bakr (RA).

Aakhirah: The Hereafter, referring to the period after people have been brought back to life on the Day of Qiyaamah. This existence will be both physical as well as spiritual.

Aalihah: **see Ilaah.**

Aalim (plural Ulema): Literally means 'a learned man'. This title is used for a person who has studied the various branches of Islaamic knowledge.

Aameen: An expression said at the end of a du'aa, meaning, 'Oh Allaah! Accept this du'aa'. Similar to the expression 'Amen' , which affirms the content of a said prayer.

Aayah (plural Aayaat): This word literally means 'a sign' but has the following three meanings: (1) the verses of the Quraan (2) the natural signs in

the universe that inform one about the existence and Oneness of Allaah (3) miracles of the Prophets. In many verses, all three meanings can be assumed at the same time.

Aayaat: see Aayah.

Abdullaah bin Salaam (RA): One of the eminent companions of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) who was formerly a very learned Jewish Rabbi.

Abu Bakr (RA): The most eminent of the Sahabah (RA) . He was the closest companion of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the first Khalifah of Islaam.

Adhaan: The public call made before every Fardh salaah to inform Muslims that salaah is soon to take place.

Ahaadeeth: see Hadeeth.

Ahlul Kitaab: The term literally means 'People of the Book' and refers to the (Jews and the Christians because they received books from Allaah, namely the Torah and the Injeel respectively.

Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaa'ah: This term is literally translated as 'The people who follow the Sunnah (the practices of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the Sahabah(RA))'.

Ahzaab: see Battle of Ahzaab.

Alayhis Salaam: This Arabic term means 'Peace be upon him' and is used as a term of respect and a prayer after the names of Allaah's Prophets and angels.

Alist: see Pledge of Alist.

Allaah: Commonly spelt "Allah", He is the One and Only being worthy of worship Who has no partners or children and is unlike anything we know. He is the Creator and Sustainer of all creation and controls everything in the universe. Only He knows, sees and hears everything and will only be seen by the people of Jannah. Non-Muslims refer to Him as 'the God of the Muslims'.

Ambiyaa: see Nabi.

Ansaar: Literally means 'helpers'. This term refers to those Muslims during the time of

Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) who were the native inhabitants of Madinah and who helped the Muhaajireen those who migrated to Madinah. **see Muhaajir.**

Arafaat: Also known as Arafah. Arafaat is an open tract of land approximately 18 km north-east of Makkah.

Ar Rahmaan: Translated as 'The Most Compassionate'; it is one of the many names used for Allaah.

Asr: One of the five Fardh salaahs. It is performed between late afternoon and sunset.

Ayyoob (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Job.

Azazil: see Iblees.

B

Badr: A place approximately 160 km south of Madinah where the Muslim army led by Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) fought the Mushrikeen army in the first battle that the Muslims ever fought. Although only 313 in number and extremely short of arms and transport, the Muslims convincingly defeated the Mushrikeen, who numbered more than a thousand and were armed to the teeth. This battle took place two years after

Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) migrated to Madinah and is known as the Battle of Badr.

Bakkah: see **Makkah**.

Bani Israa'eel: Literally translated as 'The children of Israa'eel'. Israa'eel was the title of Hadhrat Ya'qoob (Alayhis Salaam), who was the son of Hadhrat Is'haaq (Alayhis Salaam) and the grandson of Hadhrat Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam). The Bani Israa'eel are therefore the descendants of Hadhrat Ya'qoob (Alayhis Salaam). They are more commonly known as the Jews.

Barzakh: The stage of existence between the time when a person passes away until the time when he is resurrected on the Day of Qiyaamah. It is commonly referred to as a person's 'existence in the grave'.

Battle of Ahzaab: Also called the Battle of the Trench or the Battle of Khandaq, which was fought in 5 A.H. When the combined armies of the Jews and various Mushrikeen tribes decided to attack Madinah, the Sahaabah (RA) dug a trench around the city to keep them at bay. The word '*Ahzaab*' refers to many groups or armies, while the word '*Khandaq*' means 'trench' hence the name of the battle.

Battle of Badr: see **Badr**.

Battle of Tabook: see **Tabook**.

Battle of Uhud: see **Uhud**.

Baytul Maqdas or Baytul Muqaddas (Jerusalem): This ancient city is famous in the Muslim world because the Masjidul Aqsa is located in it.

Bridge of Siraat: This is an extremely precarious bridge spanning Jahannam, which every person will have to cross on the Day of Qiyaamah. Those who fall off will remain either permanently or temporarily in Jahannam, while those destined for Jannah will cross over speedily and enter Jannah.

C

Conquest of Makkah: *This refers to the time when the Muslims under the leadership of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) marched into Makkah and managed to capture the city without a war. This occurred in the 8th year after the Hijrah.*

Children of Israa'eel: see **Bani Israa'eel**.

D

Dajjaal: Literally translated as 'great deceiver'. He is referred to in the present Bible as 'man of sin' or 'the lawless one' (2 Thessalonians 2:8-11). Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) mentioned that he will appear before the Day of Qiyaamah and lead the Kuffaar armies against the Muslim armies. Isa (Alayhis Salaam) will eventually kill him.

Dawood (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet David. He was also the king of the Jews and the father of Sulaymaan (Alayhis Salaam).

Day of Qiyaamah: Also known as the Last Day. It is on this day that the world will end and everything besides Allaah will die. It is described in many verses of the Quraan.

Days of ignorance: This refers to the period in Arabia before Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) brought the message of Islaam.

Deen: Although this term refers to the religion of Islaam, as we know it today, it is also used to refer to any true religion of the past, which Allaah

taught man through His Ambiyaa. It should be borne in mind that the religions of the previous Prophets are also referred to as Islaam because they all taught people to surrender themselves to Allaah.

Dhikr: This word refers to the remembrance of Allaah. However, it is often used for the formal repetition of words by which Allaah is remembered, such as repeating the words *Laa Ilaaha Illallaah* (There is none worthy of worship but Allaah) or *Allaahu Akbar* (Allaah is the Greatest), etc.

Dhul Hijjah: The twelfth and last month of the Islaamic calendar during which the Hajj takes place.

Dhul Qa'dah: The eleventh month of the Islaamic calendar. It is one of the 'months of Hajj' because a Muslim may enter into the Ihraam for Hajj during this month.

Dhul Kifl: Also known as Hizqeel (Alayhis Salaam). He was the Prophet Ezekiel.

Dhun Noon: see Yoonus

Dhul Qarnayn: Literally translated as 'The one who possesses two horns or two centuries'. Dhul Qarnayn was pious Mu'min king of the past who ruled the world. He was **not** Alexander the Great. Refer to commentaries of the Quraan for details

Diyyah: Commonly translated as blood-money, Diyyah refers to a specific sum (either in cash or otherwise) which is paid to the heirs of a murdered person.

Du'aa: A supplication or prayer to Allaah.

F

Fajr: One of the five Fardh salaahs. It is performed between dawn and sunrise.

Fardh (plural Faraa'idh): Those acts that are obligatory for a Muslim to carry out and are clearly mentioned in the Quraan.

Fardh Kifaayah: An act which some members of a Muslim community have to carry out. If some carry it out, the rest will be absolved and if none carry it out, all of them will be sinful.

Faraa'idh: see Fardh.

Fidyah: A type of penalty that a person pays for failing to carry out obligatory deeds such as fasting or salaah. The amount paid and the manner of paying the Fidyah varies, depending on the wrong done.

Fir'oun: Normally translated as 'Pharaoh'. In Qur'aanic terms, it refers to the king of Egypt during the time of Moosa (Alayhis Salaam). He claimed to be Allaah.

G

Ghassaaq: The following are four interpretations of 'Ghassaaq:

- It is the pus of the people of Jahannam and the fluid that remains after their wounds are washed.

- It is the tears of the people in Jahannam.
- It refers to Zamhareer, which is the icy cold part of Jahannam.
- It is the frozen, decaying puss of the people in Jahannam, which is too cold to drink. (However, people will be forced to drink it because of extreme hunger).

Whatever the interpretation, 'Ghassaaq' is something extremely horrid and foul smelling. May Allaah save us all from it. Aameen!

Ghusl: Normally translated as a ceremonial bath. This bath needs to be taken under certain situations, such as after sexual intercourse or after menstruation. The details of Ghusl are mentioned in the detailed books of Islaamic jurisprudence.

H

Haabil and Qaabil: Abel and Cain. They were the two sons of Aadam (Alayhis Salaam) whose story depicts the first human murder on earth. Qaabil (Cain) murdered his brother Haabil (Abel).

Haaroon (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Aaron. He was the brother of Moosa (Alayhis Salaam).

Hadeeth (plural Ahaadeeth): The words or actions of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam), which are narrated by his Sahaabah (RA).

Hajj: The pilgrimage of Muslims that occurs during the month of Dhul Hijjah. During the Hajj, pilgrims are required to abide by certain restrictions and visit specific sites in and around Makkah, carrying out specific acts. It is obligatory only for those Muslims who have the means to perform it. The pilgrimage to the Ka'bah that the Mushrikeen used to perform before the coming of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) was also called Hajj. The Quraan makes many references to this 'Hajj' of theirs.

Halaal: Something that is lawful in the Shari'ah.

Haraam: Something that the Shari'ah clearly declares unlawful. The prohibition of anything Haraam is mentioned in the Quraan.

Haram: A designated area surrounding the Ka'bah where it is forbidden to hunt, to cut natural vegetation and to execute a person condemned to death when his crime was carried out outside the Haram.

Hawwa: Eve, the first woman created and the wife of Aadam (Alayhis Salaam).

Hijrah: To migrate from one place to another for the pleasure of Allaah. Hijrah is compulsory when it is difficult or impossible for a Muslim to practise Islaam in the place where he lives. The term Hijrah (also spelt Hegira) also refers specifically to the migration of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) from Makkah to Madinah. It is from this important event that the Islaamic calendar begins, which corresponds to the year 622 AD of the Gregorian calendar. When something had occurred five years after this Hijrah of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam), it is said that it occurred in 5 A.H.

Hizqeel (Alayhis Salaam): **see Dhul Kifl.**

Hood (Alayhis Salaam): Allaah's Prophet who preached to the nation of Aad.

Hudaybiyyah: A place close to Makkah where the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah was signed by Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the Mushrikeen of Makkah. This occurred six years after the Hijrah when the Mushrikeen refused the Muslims entry into Makkah to perform Umrah. Although the clauses of the treaty favoured the Mushrikeen, it was the Muslims who abided by them. Barely a year and a half passed when the Mushrikeen violated the treaty. This violation led to the Conquest of Makkah in the year 8 A. H.

Hunayn: A place near Makkah where the Battle of Hunayn took place in the 8th year after Hijrah. Impressed by their superior numbers, the Muslims were almost defeated in this battle because the trust of many was not completely in Allaah. However, they quickly reorganised themselves around Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and defeated the enemy.

Hypocrite (known as Munaafiq): A person who is a Kaafir but pretends to be a Muslim. Where verses refer to specific hypocrites, these will be those hypocrites who lived in Madinah during the time of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) .

I

Ibaadah: An act of worship e.g. salaah, Hajj, charity, etc.

Iblees: Another name for Shaytaan (Satan). His other name is Azazil.

Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Abraham. His sons were Ismaa'eel (Alayhis Salaam) and Is'haaq (Alayhis Salaam) .

Iddah: Normally translated as 'waiting period'. It refers to the period during which a woman cannot remarry after she has been widowed or divorced. The duration of this period varies according to the condition of every woman. The details are mentioned in the books of Islaamic jurisprudence.

Idrees (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Enoch.

Ihraam: This is the condition of mind with which one performs Hajj and Umrah. One will enter the condition of Ihraam as soon as one makes the intention to proceed for Hajj or Umrah after performing the two Rakaahs of salaah for the occasion. As soon as one enters this state, many things become forbidden for one, which are normally permissible.

Ilaah (plural Aalihah): The Being whom one worships and whom one regards as the being most deserving of worship. Therefore, the Ilaah of Muslims is Allaah and the Ilaah of others are the gods they worship.

Ilyaas (Alayhis Salaam) (also referred to as Ilyaaseen): The Prophet Elijah or Elias.

Ilyaaseen: see Ilyaas.

Imaan: Although this word is normally translated as 'belief' or 'faith', its meaning is broader. In

summary, Imaan means believing in Tauheed and the Risaalah of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) together with everything else that Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) taught. In addition to believing in all of this, Imaan will be complete only when a person verbally admits this belief. The Imaan of nations that lived before the coming of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) required belief in Tauheed together with the Risaalah of the Prophet of their time and whatever he taught them.

Imraan: Emran or Amran. He was the father of Maryam, therefore, the grandfather of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) \ Imraan was also the name of the father of Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) and Haaroon (Alayhis Salaam) .

Injeel: The book that Allaah revealed to Isa (Alayhis Salaam) . Although the word Injeel is normally translated as the Bible, this translation is incorrect because the Bible we have today is not the same Injeel that was revealed to Isa (Alayhis Salaam) . The current Bible has been changed much from the original Injeel.

Iqaamah: The words of the Adhaan that are quickly repeated immediately before the salaah commences.

Isa (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Jesus. According to Muslims, Isa (Alayhis Salaam) was a Prophet of Allaah who was miraculously born to the chaste Maryam without a father and was raised to the heavens when the Jews intended to kill him. He will return to the world as a Muslim before the Day of Qiyaamah. At no time did Isa (Alayhis Salaam) profess to be the son of Allaah as the Christians claim.

Isha: One of the five Fardh salaahs. It is performed at night between the time when all light has vanished from the horizon and the time of dawn.

Is'haaq (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Isaac. He was the son of Ibraheem and Saara. The Bani Israa'eel are from his descendants.

Islaam: (commonly spelt 'Islam') The literal meaning of the word 'Islaam' is 'to surrender' or 'to submit' because Islaam teaches one to surrender himself to Allaah's commands. Although the religion taught by Muhammad (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) is called Islaam, the religions taught by all the Prophets are also referred to as Islaam because the basic teachings of all Prophets were the same. It was the followers of the past religions who changed the teachings of their religions and their names.

Ismaa'eel (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Ishmael. He was the son of Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam) from Haajar (Hagar). The Arabs are from his descendants.

Israafeel (Alayhis Salaam): The angel appointed for the specific task of sounding the trumpet to announce the Day of Qiyaamah.

I'tikaaf: Refers to a person's stay in the Masjid for a period of time. There are many specific laws concerning I'tikaaf.

J

Jaaloot: The tyrant Goliath.

Jahannam: Commonly translated as 'hell' or 'hellfire'. This is a physical place where people will be punished after the Day of Qiyaamah.

Jannah (plural Jannaat): Commonly translated as 'paradise'. It is a physical place of happiness where people with Imaan will live forever after the Day of Qiyaamah.

Jannaat: see Jannah.

Jannatul Ma'waa: The following interpretations of this special part of Jannah have been tendered:

1. The Jannah in which people with Taqwa shall reside.
2. The place in Jannah where the souls of the Shuhadaa (martyrs) stay.
3. The place in Jannah where Aadam (Alayhis Salaam) is.
4. The place in Jannah where the souls of all the Mu'mineen abide.
5. The place where the angels Jibra'eel (Alayhis Salaam) and Mika'eel (Alayhis Salaam) stay. Allaah knows best.

Jibra'eel (Alayhis Salaam): The archangel Gabriel. He is the leader of all the angels and was responsible for bringing revelation to Allaah's Prophets.

Jihaad: Although usually translated as a 'holy war', the word Jihaad literally means 'to make an effort' or 'to exert oneself'. Therefore, although a physical battle between the Muslims and the Kaafiroon is called Jihaad, any other effort that a Muslim makes for the promotion of the Deen is called Jihaad.

Jinn: A creation of Allaah very much like human beings, except that their origin is from fire. They can assume any form, have amazing powers and are invisible to the human eye.

Jizyah: A sum of money that the non-Muslim citizens of a Muslim country pay to the government in exchange for security and other privileges.

K

Kaafir (plural Kaafiroon or Kuffaar): Commonly translated 'disbeliever' or 'rejecter of faith'. This term refers to any person who does not have Imaan. Therefore, Jews and Christians may be referred to as Kaafiroon. Although all Mushrikeen may be called Kaafiroon, all Kaafiroon cannot be called Mushrikeen. **See also Kufr and Mushrikeen.**

Kaafiroon: see Kaafir.

Ka'bah: Also referred to as 'Baytullaah' (Allaah's house'), the Ka'bah is a cube-shaped building situated in the Masjidul Haraam in the city of Makkah. It is towards the Ka'bah that Muslims face when performing salaah.

Kaffarah: A penalty that one has to pay for committing acts of sin such as breaking oaths, etc. The Kaffarah for various sins vary according to the sin involved.

Kalimah: The testimony of belief that Muslims recite to confirm their Imaan. The words of the Kalimah are 'Laa Ilaaha Illal Laahu Muhammadur Rasulullaah' (There is none worthy of worship but Allaah and Muhammad (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) is the messenger of Allaah').

Khaybar: A place where the Jews of Madinah took residence after being expelled from Madinah for betraying the Muslims. It is located approximately one hundred miles north of Madinah.

Kuffaar r: see Kaafir.

Kufr: Commonly translated as 'disbelief'. Kufr is the opposite of Imaan so when it is stated that a person commits Kufr, it means that he either disbelieves in Allaah, in the Prophet of the time (Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) in our times) or anything that is clearly mentioned in the Quraan.

L

Laylatul Qadr ('The night of Qadr'): This is an unspecified night during the Ramadhan of each year in which a person carrying out an act of Ibaadah will receive the reward of doing the act for a thousand months. The virtues of this night are mentioned in *Surah Qadr (Surah 97)*.

Loot (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Lot who preached to the people of Sodom and the surrounding areas. He lived during the period of Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam).

Lowhul Mahfoodh: Translated as the 'Protected Tablet'. It is a book in the heavens where Allaah has recorded every event that has taken place and that is to take place. Everything written there will definitely take place and none can alter it.

M

Madinah: A city in Arabia. Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) migrated to Madinah after he was compelled to leave Makkah and he lived there until his demise. He is buried in Madinah.

Maghrib: One of the five Fardh salaahs. It is performed between sunset and the period when all light vanishes from the horizon.

Mahram (plural Mahaarim): Someone whom one is not allowed to marry, such as one's father, mother, brother, sister, etc. A list of Mahaarim is mentioned in verses 22, 23 and 24 of *Surah 4*. Someone whom one is allowed to marry is referred to as a non-Mahram.

Ma'jooj: see Ya'ooj and Ma'jooj

Makkah: A city in Arabia where Rasулullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) was born. It is also referred to as Bakkah. The Ka'bah is situated in this city.

Manna: A sweet soft substance like coriander seeds, tasting similar to honey mixed with lime juice. It would fall like dew during the nights, ready for the Bani Israa'eel to enjoy in the mornings.

Maqaam of Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam): The word 'Maqaam' refers to a place where one stands and is therefore commonly translated as 'station'. The Maqaam of Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam) is the rock which Allaah provided for Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam) to stand on while he was building the Ka'bah. The rock would rise into the air whenever Ibraheem (Alayhis Salaam) needed to go higher as he built the walls.

Marwah: see Safaa.

Maryam: The Virgin Mary who was the mother of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) .

Masaajid: see Masjid

Maseeh: One of the names of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) , normally translated as 'Messiah'. If the word is assumed to be of Hebrew origin (originally 'Meshiyah'), it may be literally translated as 'blessed one' or 'anointed one'. If it is assumed to be of Arabic origin (from the root word 'Masaha'), the word means 'one who travels extensively' or 'one who passes his hand over' because Isa (Alayhis Salaam) used to cure the ill by passing his hand over them.

Masjid (plural Masaajid): Normally referred to as a mosque, a Masjid is a place where Muslims perform their salaah in congregation.

Masjidul Haraam: The Masjid surrounding the Ka'bah

Maytah: Commonly translated as 'carion', the Arabic word 'Maytah' refers to the meat of animals that die without being slaughtered in the name of Allaah as well as the meat of a limb that is removed from a living animal. The only lawful things that can be eaten without slaughtering are fish and locusts.

Mikaa'eel (Alayhis Salaam): The great angel Michael whose primary task is to distribute the rains and food to Allaah's creation.

Mi'raaj: The miraculous journey that Rasулullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) made to the heavens in a state of consciousness with his physical body. Refer to the first verse of *Surah 17*.

Mina: A place situated approximately 5 km outside Makkah. People performing Hajj spend most of their time here.

Moosa (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Moses.

Mubaahalalah: When two conflicting parties collectively make du'aa to Allaah that He should destroy the party that is wrong.

Muhaajir (plural Muhaajireen): This term refers to a person who makes Hijrah i.e. who migrates for the pleasure of Allaah. The term Muhaajireen is generally used to refer to the first Muslims who migrated from Makkah to Madinah.

Muhaajireen: see Muhaajir.

Muhkamaat: These are the verses of the Quraan that have explicit meanings and can be easily understood, regardless of whether they are literal or metaphorical. These verses contain the necessary injunctions of Islaam

dealing with fundamental beliefs and laws. It may be said that all the verses of the Quraan are Muhkam (clear and comprehensible) in a sense that all its verses are the truth and every word and meaning is so accurate and coherent that none can raise any objection. **See also 'Mutashaabihaat'.**

Muhammad (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam): The last Prophet whom Allaah sent to mankind. He was born in Makkah in 570 AD and passed away in Madinah in 632 AD. All Muslims follow his teachings.

Mu'min (plural **Mu'minoon** or **Mu'mineen**): A person who has Imaan.

Mu'minaat: feminine of Mu'mineen and Mu'minoon.

Mu'mineen: see **Mu'min**.

Mu'minoon: see **Mu'min**.

Munaafiq (plural **Munaafiqeen**): see **Hypocrite**.

Murtad (plural **Murtaddeen**): Commonly translated as an 'apostate' or 'renegade'. A Murtad is a Muslim who forsakes Islaam by either adopting another religion, by rejecting a fundamental of Islaam or by doing or saying anything that removes him/her from the fold of Islaam. **Murtaddeen**: see **Murtad**.

Mushrik (plural **Mushrikeen**): A person who commits shirk. **see Shirk**.

Mushrikeen: see **Mushrik**.

Muslim (plural **Muslims**): The word literally means 'one who has surrendered his will to Allaah'. However, it commonly refers to a person who follows the religion of Islaam.

Mutashaabihaat: These are those verses of the Quraan that are not as clear as the 'Muhkamaat' in their interpretation. Their meanings are best known to Allaah. Allaah says about these verses, '**None knows their interpretation except Allaah**' (*Surah 3, verse 7*). It is necessary to interpret these verses only in a manner that does not contradict what the Muhkam verses mention. When a suitable interpretation cannot be found, one should not delve too deeply into their meanings because the injunctions of Islaam are clearly mentioned in the Muhkamaat verses and failure to perfectly interpret the Mutashaabihaat will not affect a person's life. **See also 'Muhkamaat'.**

Muzdalifah: A place that lies between Arafah and Mina. People performing Hajj sleep over here after leaving Arafah.

N

Nabi (plural **Ambiyaa**): A Prophet whom Allaah sends to guide people. The term Nabi is generally regarded to be synonymous with the term Rasool. The Ambiyaa were sinless and fulfilled their responsibilities. **See Rasool**.

Nafil (plural **Nawaafil**): An act of worship that is optional and not enforced by the Shari'ah. Doing it will earn reward while it will not be sinful to omit it.

Nafs: Generally referred to as the carnal or baser soul. This term refers to that part of a person's disposition that usually encourages him to follow his instincts and to do wrong. However, with spiritual training, the Nafs can be corrected and made to incline towards good.

Nawaafil: see **Nafil**.

Night of Qadr: see **Laylatul Qadr**.

Nisaab: An amount equal to the value of 87.48g of gold or 612.36g of silver. Apart from his basic necessities, if a person's wealth is worth less than the amount of Nisaab, he will be deserving of zakaah.

Non-Mahram: see **Mahram**.

Nooh (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Noah, whose ark saved the Mu'mineen from drowning in a flood that killed all the Kuffaar of the time.

Nubuwwah: synonym of **Risaalah**, see **Risaalah**.

P

People of the Book: see **Ahlul Kitaab**.

Period of Ignorance: see **Days of Ignorance**.

Plain of Reckoning: The vast expanse of land on which all of mankind will be gathered on the Day of Qiyaamah to account for the actions they carried out in this world. It is also referred to as the Plain of Resurrection.

Plain of Resurrection: see **Plain of Reckoning**.

Pledge of Alist: This refers to the pledge that all of mankind made with Allaah before Aadam (Alayhis Salaam) was sent to this world. Allaah refers to it in verse 172 of *Surah A'raaf* (*Surah 7*). By taking this pledge, mankind undertook that they will always recognise Allaah as their Rabb.

Q

Qaabil: see **Haabil and Qaabil**.

Qadr: see **Laylatul Qadr**.

Qiblah: The direction a person of any religion faces when praying. However, in common usage it refers to the direction Muslims face while performing salaah, which is towards the Ka'bah in Makkah. When Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) arrived in Madinah, the Qiblah of the Muslims was Baytul Maqdas for a short while. Thereafter, the direction of the Qiblah was permanently changed to the Ka'bah

Qisaas: Literally translated as retaliation, Qisaas refers to the punishment meted out to persons who inflict such wounds to others that can be inflicted to them in exactly the same manner. The execution of a murderer is also referred to as Qisaas because it entails taking the murderer's life as retaliation for the life he took.

Qiyaamah: see **Day of Qiyaamah**.

Quba: A place close to Madinah where Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) built the first Masjid in Islaam. **Quraysh:** The Arab tribe that dominated Makkah during the time of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam). Other Arab tribes held them in high regard. Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) belonged to this tribe.

R

RA.: Abbreviation for 'Radhi Yallaahu Anhu/Anhaa/Anhum', This Arabic term means 'May Allaah be pleased with him/her/them'. It is used as a term of respect and as a prayer after the name of anyone of the Sahabah or pious predecessors.

Rabb: Although normally translated as "Lord", this translation falls far short of explaining the meaning of the word Rabb. The word Rabb refers to the Being Who creates, nurtures, sustains, controls and owns the entire creation. There is therefore no English word that can adequately translate it.

Raj'ee: A type of a divorce that entitles the husband to take his wife back into his marriage within the Iddah even without her consent.

Rakaah: A unit of salaah. The salaah of a Muslim usually comprises of a few Rakaahs.

Ramadhān: The ninth month of the Islaamic calendar during which Muslims have to fast.

Rasool (plural Rusul): Literally translated as messenger, the term almost always refers to a Prophet of Allaah. The term can also refer to others who are sent by another to fulfil a particular task e.g. the angels of death are also referred to as Rusul because they are sent to take the souls of people. While the term Rasool is generally used synonymously with the term Nabi, Ulema generally regard a Rasool to be a Nabi who receives his own Shari'ah. **See Nabi.**

Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam): The term literally means 'The messenger of Allaah' and is popularly used throughout the Muslim world to refer to Allaah's final Prophet Muhammad (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) .

Risaalah: This term refers to a person's position as Allaah's Prophet and is usually translated as 'Prophethood'. For a person's Imaan to be valid, he/she has to believe in the Risaalah of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) i.e. he/she has to believe that Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) is Allaah's final messenger (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) . For the people before Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) , it was necessary for them to believe in the Risaalah of the Prophet (Alayhis Salaam) whom Allaah sent during their time.

Roohul Qudus: Literally translated as 'The Pure Spirit' , it refers to Jibra'eel (Alayhis Salaam) . However, in the verses where the 'Roohul Qudus' is mentioned with Isa (Alayhis Salaam) some commentators have stated that it may also refer to the miracles of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) or to the Injeel.

Rukoo': The bowing posture in salaah which precedes the prostration.

Rusul: see Rasool.

S

Saabi'een: Although this group of people existed during the time of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam), they cannot be identified today because of the many different descriptions that commentators of the Quraan have given. Among the many descriptions are the following:

- They were people whose religion was a mixture of Judaism, Christianity and fire worshipping.
- They worshipped the angels.
- They lived near Iraq, believed in all the Ambiyaa, fasted for thirty days annually and prayed facing towards Yemen.
- They lived on the island of Musil and recited only 'Laa ilaaha Illallaah'.
- Their religion was similar to Christianity; they faced towards the south in prayer and believed that they followed the religion of Nooh (Alayhis Salaam) .
- They were neither Jews, nor Christians, nor fire-worshippers, nor idol-worshippers. Instead, they believed in Tauheed, but followed no specific religion.
- They were people whom none of the Ambiyaa had reached.
- They were a breakaway group from the Jews or the Christians (perhaps the Friars).

- They were perhaps the ancient Sabines of central Italy who were in close contact with early Rome.
- They were people who worshipped the stars, read the Zaboor and prayed facing towards the Ka'bah
- They were people who worshipped the stars.

Saalih (Alayhis Salaam): Allaah's Prophet who preached to the nation of Thamud.

Saamiri: A member of the Bani Israa'eel who made the golden calf which the Bani Israa'eel started worshipping in the absence of Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) .

Sabr: Although the word is normally translated as 'patience' or 'steadfastness' , it has three meanings in Arabic. All three meaning are often implied in the verses of the Quraan. The meanings are (1) steadfastly carrying out good acts. (2) abstaining from sin, (3) being patient when afflicted by difficulties.

Sacred Months: These are the months of Dhul Qa'dah, Dhul Hijjah, Muharram and Rajab. The Arabs always regarded these four months as months in which no warfare should take place. However, this does not apply any longer and fighting a war during these months is not prohibited in Islaam.

Safaa and Marwah: Two hillocks in Makkah, close to the Ka'bah Muslims performing Hajj and Umrah are required to walk between these hillocks seven times.

Sahaabah (RA): The companions of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam). The term refers to any person who saw Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and who lived and died as a Muslim.

Sajdah: Technically, Sajdah refers to prostrating before Allaah in salaah and is a form of worship. The act denotes placing the forehead on the ground as a sign of total submission and humility in front of Allaah. However, the term is sometimes used to mean submission and bowing down.

Salaah: The formal prayer of Muslims.

Salaam: This refers to the greeting of Muslims among themselves. The word 'Salaam' literally means 'peace' because when a Muslim greets another with the prescribed words of the Salaam, he is wishing peace for him.

SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam: This term means 'May Allaah shower mercy and peace on him' and is used after the name and titles of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) .

Salwaa: Partridges or quails that the Bani Israa'eel were fed with as they wandered lost in the desert. These used to gather by the thousands to be easily caught and roasted.

Shaan: Although this word is commonly translated as Syria, it refers to a large area of the Middle East including parts of modern-day Syria, Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

Shamweel (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Samuel.

Shari'ah: The code of law that governs the lives of Muslims. The term may also be used for the code of religious laws that governed the lives of nations of the past who followed other Prophets.

Shawwaal: The tenth month of the Islaamic calendar. This is the first of 'the months of Hajj' because a Muslim may enter into the Ihraam for Hajj as soon as this month begins.

Shaytaan (plural Shayaateen): This term refers specifically to the devil Satan, who is a Jinn. However, it is also used generally for all other individuals from Jinn and mankind who create mischief among people.

Shayaateen: see Shaytaan.

Shirk: Usually translated as 'polytheism', 'Shirk' is the opposite of Tauheed. 'Shirk' refers to worshipping several deities, whether Allaah is included among these or not. 'Shirk' also includes attributing such qualities to others, which belong to Allaah alone. For example, it will be said that a person is committing 'Shirk' if he/she believes that a being besides Allaah can see and hear everything. A person who commits 'Shirk' is called a Mushrik.

Shu'ayb (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Jethro who preached to the people of Madyan.

Siddeeq (plural Siddeeqeen): Literally translated as 'one who is extremely truthful'. This title is reserved for people who are extremely true in their beliefs. It is therefore used for people who were closest to the Ambiyaa and who accepted the message of the Ambiyaa without hesitation. This title is sometimes also used for the Ambiyaa themselves.

Siddeeqeen: see Siddeeq.

Sidratul Muntahaa: The Arabic word 'Sidrah' means a lotus or a jujube tree. 'Muntahaa' means the 'limit' or 'apex' i.e. a point beyond which there is nothing more. The 'Sidratul Muntahaa' is therefore a tree at which everything stops. Whatever deeds ascend to the heavens first stop at the 'Sidratul Muntahaa' before proceeding further and all commands descending to earth also stop there before descending further.

Siraat: see Bridge of Siraat.

Sodom: The city that was overturned when the people refused to accept Imaan and to give up sodomy on the instruction of Loot (Alayhis Salaam) .

Sulaymaan (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet and king Solomon who was the son of Dawood (Alayhis Salaam) .

Sunan: see Sunnah.

Sunnah (plural Sunan): The word literally means 'a practice' and refers to a practice of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam). The term 'Sunnah' may also be used as a collective noun to refer to all the practices and teachings of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) .

Surah: A chapter of the Quraan, There are 114 *Surahs* in the Quraan. (Although the proper plural of the word Surah is '*Suwar*', we have used the word *Surahs* to indicate the plural to make understanding easy since the proper plural is not commonly used among English speakers.)

T

Taaloot: Saul, one of the kings of the Bani Israa'eel.

Tabook: A place approximately 700km from Madinah where the Muslims camped to meet a large Roman army. However, the Roman army failed to appear and the Muslims consolidated their control over the region. Although no battle took place, the expedition is known as the Battle of Tabook. This took place in the 9th year after the Hijrah. It was the final expedition which Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) personally led and the journey proved to be very tedious and trying for the Muslims because of the extremely long journey and scorching heat.

Tahajjud: A non-obligatory salaah performed between the Isha and Fajr salaahs, preferably just before dawn. The merits of this salaah are tremendous.

Taqwa: Although commonly translated as 'fear for Allaah' or 'piety', the word Taqwa refers to such consciousness of Allaah or such piety that drives a person to carry out all Allaah's commands and to stay away from everything that Allaah has prohibited.

Tasawwuf: In a broad context, Tasawwuf is a code of practice involving various spiritual exercises for the purpose of developing within Muslims all traits of good character that Allaah has commanded people to inculcate together with eradicating evil traits that are inherent within people. This branch of Deen is very vast and one has to refer to the Ulema for details.

U

Umrah: A minor form of pilgrimage carried out at any time during the year. Although it also entails abiding by certain restrictions, Umrah is simpler and less strenuous than Hajj.

Uthmaan bin Affaan (RA): He was one of the most eminent Sahaabah (RA) , the son-in-law of Rasulullaah (SallAllaahu Alayhi Wasallam) and the third Khalifah of Islaam.

Uzayr (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Ezra.

V

Valley of Teeh: A small area where the Bani Israa'eel roamed lost for forty years after leaving Egypt with Moosa (Alayhis Salaam) . *[see verses 21 to 26 of Surah 5 for the reason for this]* .

W

Wudhu: Generally translated as ablution. It is a form of purifying oneself before performing salaah and before doing certain other acts of worship. There are many details pertaining to wudhu, which are mentioned in the detailed books of Islaamic jurisprudence.

Y

Yahya (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet John (or John the Baptist) . He lived during the time of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) .

Ya'jooj and Ma'jooj: Commonly translated as Gog and Magog. Authentic Ahaadeeth make it clear that the Ya'jooj and Ma'jooj are powerful human tribes whose numbers are so large that they cannot be counted. They are trapped behind a wall that the king Dhul Qarnayn erected *[see verses 92-99 of Surah 18]* and they will appear only before Qiyaamah.

Yasa' (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Elisha.

Ya'qoob (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Jacob who was also called Israa'eel (Israel). He was the father of Yoosuf (Alayhis Salaam) and his descendants were known as the Bani Israa'eel (the children of Israa'eel).

Yoonus (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Jonah. The Quraan also refers to him as Dhun Noon (The man of the fish) because a fish swallowed him.

Yoosuf (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Joseph. He was one of the twelve sons of Ya'qoob (Alayhis Salaam) and he brought his family to Egypt when he was made one of the ministers.

Z

Zaboora: The book that Allaah revealed to Dawood (Alayhis Salaam) .

Zakaah: Normally referred to as a 'poor due'. Although the word is sometimes used for charity in general, it refers specifically to the charity which Muslims annually give to the poor. Muslims who possess a specific minimum amount of wealth for an entire year need to pay zakaah, which is calculated at 2.5% of their surplus wealth.

Zakariyya (Alayhis Salaam): The Prophet Zechariah, who was the custodian of Maryam the mother of Isa (Alayhis Salaam) .

Zihaar: The practice of 'zihaar' was common among the early Arabs, who used the practice to divorce their wives. Zihhaar meant that they used to tell their wives, "You are like my mother's back to me." By saying this, they intended to state that their wives were perpetually forbidden for them to marry, just as their mothers were. Because the statement includes the word 'zahar' (back) , the act is called Zihhaar, which is a derivative of 'zahar'. If a Muslim has to say the same today, he will have to pay Kaffaarah , the details of which are mentioned in the detailed books of Islaamic jurisprudence.

Zuhr: One of the five Fardh salaahs. It is performed between midday and late afternoon.

Transliteration Note

Consonants

Alif		dad	d
Ba	b	ta	t
Ta	t	za	z
Tha	th	ayn	'
Jim	j	ghayn	gh
Ha	h	fa	f
Kha	kh	qaf	q
D	d	kaf	k
Dhal	dh	lam	l
Ra	r	mim	m
Zay	z	nun	n
Sin	s	ha	h
Shin	sh	waw	w
Sad	s	ya	y
(hamza)			

Vowels

â	fatha	a
û	dammau	
i	kasra	

= assimilated vowels